

went up to her and seeing that she wasn't feeling very good and knowing she had recently gotten married, said, "have you considered the possibility that you're pregnant." My staffer had not even considered that idea but a few days later confirmed that Roger's prediction had been right. And that's the kind of guy he was, compassionate and honest in the best way. Now everyone knows Roger Milliken had enormous foresight, but this took it to a whole new level.

Our friendship was not an obvious one. Roger was a mill owner, and before I came to Congress I was a mill worker. Roger was a Republican, and I am a Democrat. He lived a long life in South Carolina, and I come from Maine. Still, Roger was the kind of guy who looked for commonalities, regardless of the number of differences. And we shared a commitment to fixing U.S. trade policy and promoting U.S. manufacturing.

Roger truly believed in innovation and hard work as the keys to being good at making things. And he believed in a corporate code of morals. He rolled up his sleeves, got involved in the day-to-day workings of his company and pushed his employees to do the best work they could. And through these qualities, he created the largest privately held textile empire in the world. He also became a pioneer of corporate patriotism and firmly held the belief that profits didn't have to come at the expense of American jobs. He believed the strength of our nation relied on a strong manufacturing base. He lived what he preached.

One story is very telling about Roger's commitment to his country and to his employees. In 1995, one of his plants in LaGrange, Georgia burned to the ground. This tragedy happened right after NAFTA had passed, and it would have been a perfect opportunity to move his plant to Mexico to take advantage of lower labor costs. But he did not do that. Instead, Roger found temporary jobs for all of his employees and said he would have the plant up and running again in 6 months. He moved down to LaGrange to personally oversee the rebuilding of the plant, and in true Roger form, the plant was back up and operational right on schedule.

It's unlikely there will ever be another Roger Milliken. He was truly one-of-a-kind. But our country needs more leaders like him who are guided by principles and not by profits. It needs more corporations who are committed to their country. More who believe that the best solution is not always the easiest solution but that hard work and creativity will forge a better, more sustainable path. We need more corporations to carry Roger's torch of corporate patriotism and a commitment to making things in America.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work with me to remember Roger Milliken. Through bipartisan, collaborative efforts to promote American manufacturing and to fix our trade policy, we can make the most of the paths he forged and the standards he set. We can honor him in the way he would have wanted to be honored: by being more innovative, working harder and advancing the notion that corporate patriotism is better and more sustainable for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing sincerest condolences to Roger's family, Milliken Company and Associates, all of his community in South Carolina, to his co-advocates in the manufacturing and trade commu-

nity and all those who were blessed to know him. He will be missed.

HONORING FREDERICK "RICK" OBER, RESPECTED WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2011*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rick Ober for his service to the students of Woodrow Wilson High School.

A graduate of Rutgers School of Law-Camden, Mr. Ober practiced criminal law in Southern New Jersey and Pennsylvania prior to beginning his teaching career. He currently teaches U.S. history, urban studies, civics and government at Woodrow Wilson High School in Camden.

Mr. Ober also leads the school's award-winning New Jersey Model Congress Team and acts as an advisor for the student government. Additionally, he was elected as the union head for Woodrow Wilson's Camden Education Association.

Mr. Ober is also a founder of the Woodrow Wilson High School Candidate's Forum, a program that brings politicians, including Senator Arlen Specter and Governor Jon Corzine, into the school to discuss current political issues with the students. Incorporating his love of music and teaching, Mr. Ober is involved with the Symphony in C of Haddonfield both through performance and education. Mr. Ober has also brought classical music education to underserved communities through the Classroom Symphony Project. Mr. Ober helped to develop a program that prepared developmentally disabled adults to attend symphony performances.

I am happy to announce that Mr. Ober will soon be honored as a community leader by Rutgers School of Law-Camden at the Champions of Social Justice and Equality Banquet.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Ober for his work with the students of Woodrow Wilson High School and his efforts to bring government to life for the children of Camden.

HONORING RALPH GILL UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2011*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Ralph Gill, for his exceptional service to the Parish of Rapides on the occasion of his retirement as Tax Assessor. After 42 years of service in the Rapides Parish Assessor's Office, Mr. Gill's retirement becomes effective January 31, 2011.

While in this capacity, Mr. Gill served as assessor for the past 16 years and credits the work as both a challenging and rewarding experience that has more than fulfilled his life's goal of serving the public. He is very proud of his accomplishments during his tenure as Tax Assessor and is grateful to the people of Rapides Parish for the confidence and support they gave him throughout his career. Mr. Gill

believes his success would not have been possible without the support of the outstanding men and women he has worked with throughout the years.

Following his rewarding career of community service, he looks forward to spending more time with his wife, children and grandchildren. He also plans to work on his farm and possibly enjoy some traveling.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Ralph Gill, a man who has served the people of Rapides Parish for over four decades. His commitment, compassion and leadership warrant this laudable recognition.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO MAKE THE DEDUCTION FOR STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAXES PERMANENT

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2011*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation that would make the deduction for state and local sales taxes permanent. Unlike state income taxes, the deductibility of which has long been a permanent fixture of the tax code, the citizens in states with only a sales tax—including my home state of Florida—have been forced to rely on short-term extensions of the sales tax deduction from year to year.

Without this deduction, taxpayers in the nine states with no state income tax, including Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming, would not have the opportunity to deduct from their federal tax obligation the sales taxes paid to their state and local governments. This measure helps to level the playing field for the taxpayers in these states, allowing them to deduct state taxes like those in income tax states. Making this deduction permanent enjoys broad bipartisan support, and more than 11 million taxpayers utilized this deduction in 2008.

Making the deduction permanent provides certainty to the taxpayers, allows for more efficient financial planning, and ensures fairness in the tax code for taxpayers in states without an income tax.

In closing, I urge the Committee on Ways and Means to consider this proposal as they begin to consider ways to make the tax code simpler and more efficient.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHELE JACKSON

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 25, 2011*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Michele Jackson, Executive Director of Shelter Network for the last 10 years. Michele is a true professional and has been an exceptional leader of this wonderful agency. Shelter Network, a godsend to our country, has helped thousands of homeless families and individuals in San Mateo County find homes and become self-sufficient since 1987.